

FEAST OF THE BONKU

HOW JAPAN'S GREAT SUMMER HOLIDAY IS CELEBRATED.

It is at Once an Occasion For Feasting the Spirits of the Departed and an Opportunity For a Marvellous Display of Lanterns.

There are no Sundays in Japan, but the people enjoy many legal and religious holidays. The most notable of all is that elaborate summer festival which lasts for four days in the middle of July and has so many sides to it that it is known by several names.

In Dai Nippon religion and pleasure go hand in hand, and this extraordinary season of homage to friends who have passed away is an occasion of most singular and exceedingly picturesque national festivities on a universal scale.

Tokyo is a gay sight indeed on the morning of July 13. The first ceremony is the Kawa Biraki, or opening of the river. Processions of pleasure boats start down the river Suwida.

During the daytime the religious ritual is sedulously observed. For many days numerous hands have been busily weaving new mats of the finest rice straw, and now these are brought to the Buddhist shrines and spread upon the altars and inside the temples.

Of course the feeding of the ghostly guests is the most essential item in the programme of preparation. The dietetic commodities which these visitors from the unseen world are supposed to prefer are somewhat numerous.

Somewhat more substantial are the contributions in the shape of "gozen" (carefully boiled rice), "somen" (a kind of macaroni) and "dango" (a minute flour dumpling).

The proceedings indoors of course occupy much attention, and some member of the family must constantly be in the

home, but the doings out of doors are full of interest and charm. All kinds of fascinating features characterize the public celebrations on land, on the river and by the sea.

Wonderful everywhere in the land is the scene at nightfall. The "mukaebi," or welcome fires, are kindled on the first evening of Bonmatsuri along the rivers and the shores wherever any town or village stands.

very special provision is made by the priests in the temples. This is a special function of the third night.

The "sayonara," or farewell ceremonial, is the final scene, and a pathetic performance it is. On the last night, the evening of the 16th, the spirits must all return whence they came to earth for their brief visitation.

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Disinherited. They tell a story in Paris of Pierre Wolff, the dramatist, nephew of Albert Wolff, the critic and sworn enemy of the manager Antoine.

Scenery in Bering Sea.

"Sailing southeasterly along the shore of that haunt of the walrus and polar bear, St. Matthew's island, in the Bering sea," said a navigator of those waters, "one is impressed by the mingling of the grotesque and the terrible in the character of the scenery."

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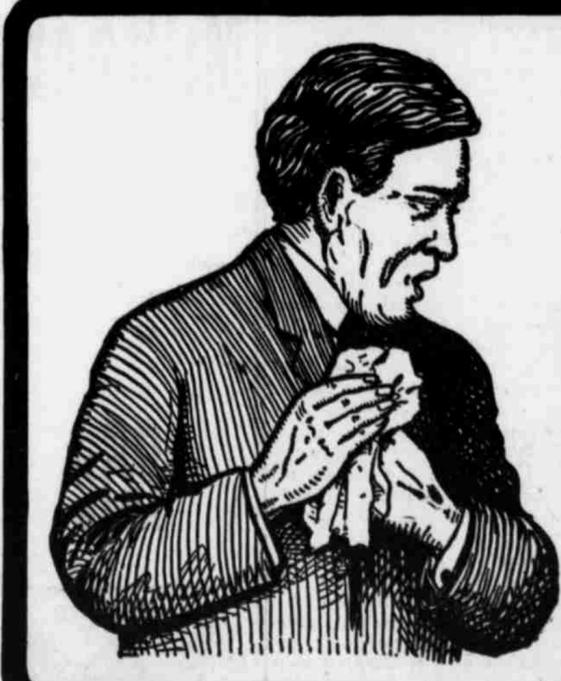
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TIDE TABLE, NOVEMBER

Table with tide data for November 1905. Columns include Low Water, High Water, and times in A.M. and P.M. for dates from Wednesday to Thursday.



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